

ONEIDA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 29, 2014

Members present: Ms. Carol Pederson, Mr. Bob Metropulos, and Mr. Mitchell Ives

Absent: Mr. Alex Young and Mr. Bill Freudenberg

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Amy Mayo, and Ms. Heidi Brown

Guests: Mr. Jonathan Anderson, Lakeland Times

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ms. Carol Pederson, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Mitchell Ives to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – June 24, 2014

Motion by Mr. Mitchell Ives, seconded by Ms. Carol Pederson to approve the Social Services Committee minutes of June 24, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Staff Retention Strategies – Employment Contract

Ms. Mary Rideout provided the committee with a copy of the Employment Contract for social workers. Corporation Counsel, Brian Desmond, reviewed the contract. He made one change to the contract that indicated if repayment of training costs were to be appealed, then the appeal would come to the Social Services Committee. Motion by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Mitchell Ives to approve the Employment Contract and forward to the Labor and Relations Committee for approval. Motion Carried unanimously.

5. Support Programs Overview

Ms. Amy Mayo provided handout with information on all the different support programs in the department of Social Services. Child Support services can start with paternity and continue through court action. There are currently over 1,800 child support cases in Oneida county. Changes have been made within the department to more effectively and efficiently run the Child Support program. Social Services also provides support through the WI Home Energy program. This program runs from October through May 15 for regular benefits. Crisis funding has generally been available during the summer months for disconnects, however due to the propane crisis over the winter, there are no crisis funds available this summer. Economic Support programs consist of Medical Assistance, FoodShare, and Child Care Assistance. These programs have eligibility

based on income. They are administered through the Central Consortium which started in 2011 to more effectively run the Economic Support programs. Lastly, PPACA started at the end of 2013. Two workers were hired in Oneida County to help with additional workloads. It is not known if funding will be available yet after 2015 to help fund these workers.

6. Summer Propane Fill Program

Due to the propane crisis that went on this winter, the state would like for every propane tank to be filled prior to the start of the fuel season. To help with this, they have created the Summer Propane Fill Program. This allows us to be able to provide assistance to 122 clients that received a letter based on low income levels. They can receive up to \$300.00 in support based on how much they will match the cost of the propane. So far 52 clients have participated.

7. 2015 Preliminary Budget Overview and Decision Items

Ms. Mary Rideout stated there will be no increase in county funding this year. There were six decision items that were presented to the board for optional county funding. 1.) Tri-county funding to remain at the \$15,000.00 per year. This helps fund the cost of Oneida County residence in the shelter. 2.) Supportive Home Care is funded with \$23,750 of county funds. It is requested to remain at this amount due to possible waitlisted clients if this amount were to decrease. 3.) It is requested to increase county funding in Chapter 55 placements from \$20,000 in 2014 to \$40,000 in 2015. The department is most likely to overspent funding this year, therefore would like to increase for 2015. The additional money will come from another program were less money is needed. 4.) It is requested that the \$69,768 for diversion services for the Juvenile and Children and Families, remain the same. This program helps prevent costs for out of home care. 5.) Increase funding for Crisis Respite Child Care by \$400.00. Again, the money will come from another county funded program. This program is currently overspent. 6.) It is recommended to stay Fiscal Agent for the ADRC of the Northwoods as it provides the department with income of \$57,000 per year. Motion by Mr. Mitchell Ives, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to approve the six decision items for the 2015 budget. Motion Carried unanimously.

8. 2014 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Report

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Reports. It is projected that the agency will have a return of approximately \$458,000 for the year. Motion made by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Mitchell Ives, to approve the 2014 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Audit of Payments/Line Item Transfers

The bills were reviewed by the committee. Motion made by Mr. Mitchell Ives, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos, to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. There were no Line Item Transfers

10. Agency Items for the August 26, 2014 meeting:

The 2015 Budget.

11. Adjourn:

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Mitchell Ives, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Carol Pederson, Chairperson

Date: August 26, 2014